



SEMINOLE COUNTY TRAILS AND GREENWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 27, 2003

Minutes

Members in attendance:

Tony Tizzio
Tim Donihi
Pat Burkett
Wally Hill
Andrea Holman
Cindy Gennell
Roger Cooper
Jeff Payne
Bill Fernandez

Staff in attendance:

Cindy Matheny
Suzy Goldman
Joe Gasparini
Jeff Hayes

Mr. Donihi called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Mr. Fernandez made a motion to approve the February minutes with 2 changes; seconded by Ms. Holman; unanimously approved.

Mr. Donihi introduced Suzy Goldman, Library and Leisure Services Director. Ms. Goldman distributed handouts and explained her department's experience in dealing with volunteers, advisory boards, and independent support groups.

Ms. Goldman described her plans for starting volunteer and Adopt a Trailhead programs and also described the role that a Friends of the Trails group could have. She explained that a Friends program could apply for grants from private foundations that do not accept applications from governments, and that Friends of the Library had used monies raised through fund-raising projects as matching funds for grants.

Ms. Gennell said that a Friends of the Trails group could sell Trails hats, t-shirts, and decals to raise funds.

Mr. Cooper asked if a County staff person would be a liaison to a Friends group.

Ms. Goldman replied in the affirmative and stated that county staff could advise such a group, but could not supply clerical or other material assistance.

Mr. Donihi said that corporations participating in the existing Adopt a Road program seem to be competitive in trying to have the best-looking roadway.

Ms. Goldman stated that most corporations want to participate in Adopt programs on Saturdays, which would conflict with trail users in the limited trailhead parking areas. She stated that her department was considering community organizations and possibly restaurants as participants.

Mr. Donihi asked how a volunteer group would be authorized.

Ms. Goldman responded that she had the ability to establish a volunteer group without Board of County Commissioners approval. She stated that the Board has been pleased in the past by volunteer efforts in the Library and Leisure Services Department. She stated that a pilot volunteer programs would be started in the early summer on segments of the Seminole-Wekiva Trail where volunteers would have a facility to report in to.

Ms. Goldman stated that the Friends of the Library had raised up to \$75,000 in a year and that a Friends group would need an attorney and accountant.

Ms. Goldman stated that the Board of County Commissioners would have to adopt a resolution to authorize the Adopt a Trailhead program.

Ms. Holman asked if a Friends group could sell concessions on the trails.

Ms. Goldman responded that that would be a question for the County Attorney's office. She said there are prohibitions against such sales, but the Board had previously approved some variation for the Friends of the Library in terms of location.

Ms. Goldman stated that the Trails Advisory Committee could provide leads to her on groups who might be interested in adopting a trailhead.

Mr. Fernandez made a motion to adopt a resolution encouraging the Board of County Commissioners to vote affirmatively for an Adopt a Trailhead program; seconded by Ms. Gennell and approved unanimously.

Mr. Donihi asked staff to highlight the above vote in a copy of the minutes to be sent to Chairman McLain. He also asked the committee to bring suggestions to the next meeting of potential sponsors for a Friends group.

Ms. Goldman described her department's procedures in dealing with group events on the trails. She stated that they review potential impacts, and that parking limitations would control the size of events.

Mr. Gasparini stated that his office tries to provide as much notice as possible of upcoming events.

Ms. Holman suggested that large events could start in another location and enter the trail after the participants have become staggered along the route.

Ms. Gennell asked if entrepreneurs will ever be able to sell concessions on the trails.

Ms. Goldman replied that they do not know what the demand for concessions would be.

Ms. Gennell asked if Parks could provide the procedures for approval of group events on its website and if a link from the Trails website could be provided.

Mr. Cooper asked if a Friends group could build a website with paid sponsors to raise funds, and if the Trails website could link to that website.

Ms. Goldman said she had no objections to either question.

Related Reports

BPAC

Ms. Matheny passed out copies of the Spot Improvement Report provided by BPAC at their March meeting.

Ms. Gennell said that Item 20 (US 17-92 between Melody Lane and Shepard Rd) was unclear and needed action. She asked staff to find out what FDOT will do to resolve the problem and report back to the committee.

Ms. Burkett asked why there are no marked bike lanes on CR 427.

Ms. Holman said that Tuskawilla Rd south of Red Bug Lake Rd has wide outer lanes but no marked bike lanes, although it is posted as "bike-sharing".

Ms. Gennell stated that the same situation existed on SR 434. She said that these should come to the attention of the Board of County Commissioners.

Ms. Holman stated that developers tear up sections of sidewalks during construction and don't repair them until the end of construction and that this is a real danger.

Mr. Cooper asked what kind of consideration is given to roller bladders. He described the difficulty in reaching the crossing button at the Seminole Wekiva/Lake Mary Blvd intersection. He also described the slope to the roadway and on the roadway which is dangerous for roller bladders.

Mr. Donihi said that trail users get a "walk" sign but drivers continue to turn right, interfering with trails users trying to cross.

Ms. Matheny reported on projects the Special Projects team was preparing for submittal for Transportation Enhancement funds. Ms. Matheny further explained the results of the BPAC latent demand process with an extra 30 points awarded to Seminole County projects to make them competitive with Orlando. She stated that Seminole has only 5 or 6 projects ranked highly while Orange County has several hundred.

Natural Lands

Ms. Burkett stated that at the last Board of County Commissioners meeting the county was attempting to renegotiate with the owner of the Clifton Springs property. She said that the owner wants too much money and has now pulled out a portion of the site that he wants to use for access to the site from private property.

Florida National Scenic Trail

Mr. Hill stated that he had no items to report.

Bike Issues

Ms. Matheny reported to the committee on an issue brought up at the last meeting regarding a separate bicycle committee. She said that it had existed for a year and sunsetted in March, 2000.

Mr. Donihi said that he saw no need for a bike committee to be re-established.

Planning/Coordination

Ms. Matheny reported that staff would be at the Central Florida Zoo on the upcoming weekend for the "Wild About Florida" program.

She stated that FDOT wants to submit the I-4 pedestrian bridge for a national transportation award.

OGT/FDOT

Ms. Matheny had no items to report.

Design and Construction

Ms. Matheny reported on the status of current trails projects.

Mr. Donihi asked if staff could provide project updates at each meeting.

Old Business

Mr. Donihi said the Signage and Security Subcommittee chair was not present. He provided to staff a letter to accompany the committee's Mission statement when transmitted to the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Donihi proposed that a subcommittee be established to provide a slate of officers for committee elections in April. The committee nominated Ms. Gennell, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Avitable to the subcommittee. Mr. Donihi said he would call the three members to discuss the subcommittee. He asked staff to email the committee and advise them to contact any of the subcommittee members if they had suggestions for officers.

Mr. Tizzio asked if motions for officers could still be made from the floor.

Mr. Donihi replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Donihi said the next meeting would be at the County Services Building due to the committee elections, and that the May meeting would be a field trip.

Mr. Donihi stated that he had the final version of the Trails Public Service Announcements and would be providing them to staff at SGTV to begin broadcasting them.

Mr. Tizzio announced that he is on a subcommittee of the Transportation Disadvantaged Committee at Metroplan. He stated the subcommittee is addressing transportation problems and will be meeting at 1 p.m. on April 24.

Mr. Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Fernandez, approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

